



Sonrisa Foundation provides lots of smiles during their annual fiesta

'Tis the season for fiestas in Aruba! Not only do the various events held by the island's foundations raise funds, but also it is the manner of choice for many to decorate their homes for the season. Many went home with beautiful holiday handicrafts from the clients of the Sonrisa Foundation during their annual fiesta, which was held this past Sunday. "Sonrisa" means "smile" in Papiamentu.

There was great food for sale, and some of Aruba's top gaita bands donated their time to entertain the multitudes that attended the event at the Sonrisa center in Pavilla. It was very pleasant to relax and enjoy a platter of holiday favorites of ham and turkey while listening to the music of the season. Some men will be quite well dressed this holiday season with the bargains offered by the flea market, and several children went home happy after winning prizes from the games and contests offered during the day.

Sonrisa is a foundation begun by the parents of mentally challenged children that offers support, information and networking for the families. Events like the Sonrisa Fiesta is only one of many ongoing efforts from President Tomas Tromp and his staff, headed by Angelique Perez, that provide opportunities for the mentally challenged to be involved and enjoy the season with their families. The fiesta helps financially support their foundation's work throughout the year, as does their "donation tree" where the leaves and apples contain the names of those that help them in their work.

If you missed the fun day at the center, you can still assist them by depositing to the Aruba Bank account #120639013, and helping to bring a smile to the faces of the Sonrisa people!